California. GARDEN

JULY-AUGUST 2003

Volume 94 No. 4

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HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

June 13-July 6

2003 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR Paul Ecke, Jr. Flower & Garden Show "Fanta-Sea." Hours Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Closed Mondays. 24-hour info line 858/793-5555 or www.sdfair.com.

July 5 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, included the state of the state of

SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762 or visit www.sdfloral.org.

July 5 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Summer Color. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Also Summer Color at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS National Cactus and Succulent Show. Over 1000 award-winning plants. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.

July 9 Wed.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Curator's Tour. "Mr. Huntington's Ranch, 1903-2003: A Century of Transformation." 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join curator Dan Lewis for a tour through 100 years of Huntington history. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Members \$10, non-members \$20. Registration: 626/405-2128.

July 12 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Shade Gardening. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Garden Railroading: Putting it all Together, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 12 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly class "Fairytale Landscape; Cottage Gardens San Diego Style." with Chris Wotruba of Perennial Adventures. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

July 13 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert Series starting with Tim Flannery & Friends. 5:00-8:00 p.m. Ticket prices for Tim Flannery are \$28 for members and \$30 non-members. Other concert prices are \$20 members, \$22 non-members. Ticket price includes light supper, dessert and coffee. No-host bar available. Pre-payment required. Call 760/436-3036

or check www.qbgardens.com.

July 14 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly meeting "Desert Desserts: Exciting Plants for a Dry State," by George Hull, Mountain States Wholesale Nursery. 6:30 p.m. Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. 858/756-2579. Free.

July 19 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
Aquatic Gardens: Lessons from Lotusland.
10 a.m.- noon. Virginia Hayes, Curator of Living
Collections at Lotusland will share secrets for
successful aquatic gardening. 1151 Oxford Road, San
Marino. Adults only. Members \$25. Non-members
\$35. Registration: 626/405-2128.

July 19 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Family Evening, "Sizzling Summer Night." Explore the night-life of the gardens, including garden walk, a performance by Taiko drummers, and stargazing with telescopes. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Members \$14 adult/\$10 child. Non-members \$18 adult/\$12 child. Registration: 626/405-2128.

July 19 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 5 for details.

July 19 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Sod Installation. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Monrovia Growers, What's New and Exciting with Guest Speaker Patrick Poitras, at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 19-20 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO NON BO CLUB Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Information 619/530-2319. Free.

July 23 Wed.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

Curator's Garden Walk: Herb Garden. 4:30-5:30 p.m. The mythology and folklore of herbs—as well as more practical uses—will be explored in this after-hours garden tour with herb cookbook author Shirley Kerins. Members \$10, non-members \$15. Registration: 626/405-2128.

July 26 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Subtropical Fruits. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Summer Rose Care, at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

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July 26-27 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY Summer Mini Show and Sale. Sat. noon-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

July 27 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert with Jaime Valle & Equinox, Latin Jazz. See July 13 for details.

August 2 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 5 for details. August 2 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Staghorn Ferns. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Bamboo, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free. August 2-3 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY Show. All are welcome to bring in blooms for display on Friday August 1, or Sat. between 8-10 a.m. Judging is between 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch is provided for exhibitors. Contact David Tooley at 858/672-2593 or DJSJ21543@aol.com for details. Open to public Sat. 1-4 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 9 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Plumeria (graffing too). 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Ornamental Grasses for the Garden, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 9 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly class "Showcase Your Garden; Effective Use of Hardscape and Retaining Walls." 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

August 10 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert with Robin Adler, Jazz Vocalist. See July 13 for details.

August 11 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Monthly meeting "Designing Meadow Lawns" by
Anita Green, A.E. Green Environmental Designs. 6:30
p.m. Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, 2260
Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. 858/756-2579. Free.
August 16 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
LIBRARY will be open. See July 5 for details.

August 16 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Bonsai. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Garden Railway Clinic: Building Structures from Scratch or Kits, A Demonstration. Buy "DOWN TO EARTH" with Tom Piergrossi

Nightly at 8:00 p.m. on CTN

Time Warner 22 or Cox 19 or 24 and Adelphia 66

a kit and get help assembling it! 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 16-17 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY Show and Sale. Show starts Sat. noon-5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The sale is 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 21 Thur.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Curator's Garden Walk: Bamboo. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Join Horticultural Superintendent Ann Richardson for an informative look at this graceful member of the grass family. Members \$10, non-members \$15. Registration: 626/405-2128.

August 22 Fri.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Field Botany With Dr. Jim Folsom: The Subtropical Garden. 9 a.m.-noon. Explore the heart of the Botanical Gardens diverse plant life in a morning class of field observation, plant collecting, and microscopic study in the lab. Members \$25, non-members \$30. Adults only. Registration: 626/405-2128.

August 23 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Gardenia Care & Culture. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Tropicals: Plants That Shine When Others Melt! 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 24 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert with New South Market Street Band, Dixieland. See July 13 for details.

August 30-31 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO TURTLE & TORTOISE SOCIETY Show, Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 30 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS 20th Annual Succulent Plants Symposium. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Explore the plants and biogeography of South America. Speakers include biologists James Mauseth, Carlos Ostolaza, and Roberto Kiesling, co-authors of *A Cactus Odyssey: Journeys in the Wild of Bolivia, Peru, and Argentina*. Registration of \$70 includes lunch; an optional dinner is available for an additional \$25. Registration: 626/405-3504.

August 30 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Water Gardens. 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Staghorn Ferns:

Remounting, Varieties and Care, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent

tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721. **OFFSHOOT TOURS** Ranger guided. Various topics.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY

Third Friday of every month from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks.
Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation
Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each
month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and
Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Sunday 10:30 to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$10 adults, \$8.50 seniors, \$7 students(12-18), \$4 youth(5-11) under 5 and members are free. Group rate (10+) \$8. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

GARDENING CLASSES

BETTY NEWTON

12 WEEK COURSE

Flower Gardens: Year-Round Color with Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs and Old Fashioned Roses Sept. 4 to Dec. 11 Thurs. A.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$28.

JOYCE GEMMELL

8 WEEK COURSE

Fall & Winter Vegetable Gardening Sept. 5-Oct. 24 Fri. A.M. \$25

Foothills Adult Center. 9 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122.

Deadline for submission to

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for SEPT/OCT issue is July 15. SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

[This note was sent to Betty Newton, who wrote about "the Christmas rose", apparently a tall, fasciated celosia in "A Good-Looking Immigrant Annual" in our last issue. She shares it here, thinking it adds still more meaning both to the flower and to the encounter.]

Betty, I hope you still have a couple of seeds left. Would like some, please.

This is a wonderful thing. Mr. Bahena with respect to nature planted the seeds all around him as a reminder of his native Mexico, and his mother raised it of course.

Betty, when I was a small girl I remember around the first of November (which is All Souls' Day in the Philippines) flower vendors sell the huge flowers, large stems and all, outside the entrance to the cemetery to people on their way to visit their respective graves, which are adorned with large candles and colorful large flowers. I remember the large size of flowers. Relatives and their guests gather to visit till the wee hours. Some stay till the next day; it was like a big reunion of sorts. I admire Mr. Bahena's knowledge and care of nature. Betty, the picture says it all. Now, his son, Victor, will always remember how you came to admire this useful plant. I wish I had paid more attention to nature when I was younger.

Sincerely, Amor Poirier



Gleanings .

gathered by barbara jones

SAN DIEGO TREES . . .

"The Tree Planters" were a group of civic-minded ladies who met on November 15. 1909 to form plans to encourage the citizens of San Diego to plant trees or palms along every street except those with good views where shrubs would be planted. Each citysized lot was to have one tree planted in the parkway. Each neighborhood had a chairman. These eighteen society ladies had courage and ability. First they investigated to determine the plant preferred individual streets and then they arranged to have the plantings done thereby insuring uniformity plus saving money for the individual resident. Mrs. Sefton, the chairman, made an urgent appeal that they work together for the future to have a city for their children and grandchildren that would be filled with palms and blossoming trees and not have the present "brown and barren streets."

The trees suggested were the *Cocos plumosus* palm (that would not interfere with the view), pepper, camphor, pride of India, magnolia, rubber and the shrubs were hibiscus, oleander, geranium, poinsettia, pittosporum, and laurustinus.

ORANGES . . .

Most of the oranges are through brooming, but trees

can still be planted and have time to acclimate before the cold weather. The two most popular oranges grown in this area are the 'Valencia' for juice, and the navel for eating. Oranges must ripen on the tree and it takes months for this to happen. Navels ripen from November to March or April; the 'Valencia' peak season is May through July.

Trees are available in regular or small size. (A small tree can grow to 15 feet.) There are also miniature forms that can be grown in washtub-size containers. Orange trees are attractive. can withstand trimming, and can be used as an ornamental tree. If the tree is grown for fruit, the lower branches should not removed — heaviest crop is on the lower branches.

Most of the eating oranges in the USA are grown in Florida and California. The majority of the commercial juice is made from 'Valencia' oranges that are grown in Florida or South America. Nearly all of the oranges consumed in the USA are in the form of juice.

A bit of trivia: oranges are native to Southeast Asia and were first cultivated in China. It is estimated that we humans have been eating them for over 6000 years.

VISITORS . . .

We get frequent calls to the

SDFA office asking where visitors can be taken to view flowers. The most obvious place we direct them to is Balboa Park with the lath house, the rose garden, and the beautiful plantings in all the street side and hidden gardens along the Prado. If they want exotic plants, there's Quail Botanical Gardens. But one place that is often overlooked is the Zoo. The plantings include over 6,500 species, many of them rare (200 palm species, 100 aloes. orchids). The Wild Animal Park has over 4,000 species, most of them are identified Also, the plants are near animals that are native to the same region. Great geography lesson!

LAVENDER . . .

This is one flower odor we all recognize. It's a very old scent that we often associate with toiletries. The plant is native to the Mediterranean region, but it loves Southern California. Over sixty-five varieties are available. It is considered to be a herb - but if it is not cut back it turns into a shrub. Lavender prefers well-drained soil in a sunny place in the garden. As a cut flower, it will last four to five years. The secret is to cut branches when the flowers are about one-third open and suspend in a cool dry place for about a month.

RHAPSODY IN BROWNS—ALL ABOUT BROWN ROSES, PART II

BY FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

ALTHOUGH WE USE the term brown roses, there are actually a great many color variations in this group. These tend to fall into three rather broad categories. In Part I of this article, I discussed the russet/reddish brown/oxblood types of brown roses. Here in Part II, I'll discuss the warm tan/beige and golden-toned brown roses, and the cool beige, lavender or pink-tinted browns.

"Warm" Beige-Tan/Tawny Gold Tones: Brownie

This 1959 floribunda must have been an incredible oddity in its day-the heyday of the huge, gaudy, fluorescent hybrid teas and floribundas of the postwar period. Brownie's buds are usually toffeecolored with rather alarming flashes of deep cerise on the petal edges. The smallish, very double blooms open a definite walnut shell tan-not beige-very much like the tan on the reverse of Léonidas petals. The cherry red edges pale as the petals quickly roll back, allowing the tan to dominate. Although Brownie is a rather small, weakish plant that can use lots of TLC, it is obdurate in producing a considerable number of buds throughout the season-most of which should be removed in its first year. This "tough love" approach will give you a sturdy, healthy plant that will then be able to support all those blooms the following season. The matte, greyish-olive foliage presents an attractive opportunity for fungal diseases, so be sure to spray. Despite the caveats, Brownie is a unique and very worthwhile rose

Butterscotch (CL)

One of the few "brown" climbers (the other being the greyish white-to-taupe Ash Wednesday, see below), this 1986 introduction by William Warriner is not to be confused with a 1942 golden apricot hybrid tea of the same name. Until it was reintroduced this season by Armstrong, Climbing Butterscotch had inexplicably disappeared from commerce, and was the subject of one of my most energetic "rose hunts." Climbing Butterscotch produces lovely, large, cupshaped blooms—almost like a polyantha on steroids—that are sturdier than their fragile, long-necked appearance would suggest. True to its name, Butterscotch's blooms are a glorious series of pale

gold-buff yellow-straw-tan shades that age to a tea-stain beige the color of balsa wood, particularly in the center petals. Blooms tend to come in several flushes rather than regularly throughout the season. A vigorous, but not ruthless climber, Butterscotch has attractive, relatively disease-resistant bluish foliage when the leaves mature. If you like the unusual at all, you will adore this rose.



Butterscotch (CL)

Café

One of the earliest brown roses, Café was introduced in 1956. It's the product of a cross between the Brownell climber Golden Glow and Lavender Pinocchio—and therein lies the tale. The somewhat quartered bloom form, reminiscent of Centifolias, is rare among brown roses, and is most attractive. Café's color is very climate-dependent, but at its best Café produces large blooms truly the color of coffee with cream—always, however, with a warm, golden undertone that reveals its breeding. Depending on the climate, the blooms can sometimes be a rather jarring, deep brassy yellow the color of goldenrod. Café is one of only a handful of fragrant brown roses, and produces

blooms with a sweet, old-fashioned scent that match their form. Another anomalous floribunda, Café is a big plant with big blooms. My three-year-old grafted Café already has four-foot long canes and $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4-inch blooms that do, however, come in clusters. Its matte foliage, somewhat prone to mildew, is an attractive shade of deep apple green.

Golden Julia

I didn't quite know how to visualize this sport of Julia's Rose when its discoverer, the brown rose authority Kim Rupert, described it to me as a *cold* shade of yellow. When a friend who grew it said it reminded her of Dijon mustard, everything clicked. The blooms, almost identical in form to Julia's Rose, are indeed a light, tarnished brass color, but with a very definite nod to Julia's beigey-grey tones. Golden Julia displays much the same restrained, vertical growth as well.

Singin' in the Rain

Although not usually classified as a brown rose, this vigorous floribunda incessantly produces clusters of three-inch blooms of an indisputable tan-dusky peach color with a bronzy-cinnamon reverse. In cool weather, the tan is especially pronounced. often deepening almost to a toast color. In midsummer, however, the heat and sunlight often bring out pinkish or pastel tints that can be minimized if the plant is given some afternoon shade. Singin' in the Rain is rather tall-easily four feet-and vertical without being leggy. The foliage is a deep pine green, exceptionally shiny and healthy. Although reputedly somewhat fragrant, I've noticed only the mildest scent. Along with Hot Cocoa and Brown Velvet, it's among the most low-maintenance of brown roses.

"Cool" Beige-Parchment Tones:

Ash Wednesday (CL)

This once-blooming climber is usually classed as a white, but its very varied and nuanced coloration is no more "white" than off-colored blooms of Café Olé (see below). As the name implies, there's an "ashen quality to the blooms, which in cool weather have a greater or lesser greyed milk chocolate tint to the centers, varying from flower to flower. This shade is

almost identical to the haze of cocoa-taupe found at the heart of Grey Pearl, immediately clarifying Grey Pearl's unofficial name, The Mouse. As a once bloomer, Ash Wednesday gives you one chance to get the bloom color you want: if your May/June weather is cool and overcast, you can expect greater nuance; if it's already sunny and hot, you'll get a greyish-lavender cast to the blooms much like the hybrid tea Stainless Steel. Based on my personal experience, which may not be typical, I've found Ash Wednesday to be slow to get established.

Café Olé (mini)

When this famous mini (a sport of the very attractive greyish-lavender mini Winter Magic) is at the peak of perfection, it is breathtaking and justly deserves its reputation as *the* brown mini. In my garden, however, it gets a mixed review. I get the "perfection" about 40 percent of the time: a dozen thread-spool

sized, strongly-scented flowers of a nuanced "cool" beige-taupe that is a lot closer to a chocolate malted than to milky coffee. The rest of the time, the color is all over the map. In very cool weather-nights in the 40s-Café Olé turns an icy grev with a hint of bluish lilac, like a combination of Grev Pearl with Stainless Steel or Sterling Silver. This is its Winter Magic background reasserting itself. In normal early spring and autumn weather, blooms are an off white with a hint of warm dove grey shading to "mouse". Only summer hot spell, preferably accompanied by cool nights, can I count "perfection." The blooms. which tend to ball in damp

weather, are produced in flushes separated by distinct intervals. The

much-touted scent, while always present, is only a bowl-you-over experience when the weather is warm and damp. To my eye, Café Olé has strange foliage—an oddly sharp birch-leaf green quite at odds with the color of the flowers (except when showing their grey-lavender tones). This is a fairly vigorous plant, rather large for a mini, and is relatively disease resistant—but be warned that the foliage tends to be more than ordinarily prone to chemical spotting.



Café Olé

When I was building my collection of brown roses, I felt obliged to include this hybrid tea, one of the best known of the browns, despite the fact that all the photos I'd seen had shown what I considered a very unattractive pinkish tinge to the petals. What a pleasant surprise to discover that the pinkishness was completely absent when Julia's Rose bloomed for me. The very large, scentless blooms are a cool shade of beige not seen much anymore. For me, the color is very reminiscent of the "nude" shade of beige chiffon that Parisian couturiers used in the early-to-mid-1960s-the kind of "ladylike" shade that you'd have expected Jackie Kennedy or Marlene Dietrich to wear to cocktail parties. Deeper and "cooler" than buff or parchment, with the faintest hint of an apricot-peach undertone. Julia's Rose, while by no means sickly, is not a robust grower. Neither of my three-year-old plants has quite reached three feet yet, despite being perfectly healthy. This is a plant that tends to make a lot of vertical growth, and since it seems to resent anything but the lightest pruning, I suggest relentless tip-pinching to encourage lateral growth. Also, if you can bear it, remove two out of three buds the first seasonparticularly painful advice as Julia's Rose is a regular. but not lavish producer of its exquisite blooms. On the plus side, there seems to be very little seasonal variation in the bloom color.

Space Walk (mini)

This is a little-known but absolutely terrific mini by Ernest D. Williams, creator of a number of miniatures with very unique coloration such as Suntan Beauty and Smoke Signals. Space Walk's plentiful blossoms are an unusual shade of greyed apricot-peach with smoky overtones—deeper and slightly warmer in tone than either Julia's Rose or Spiced Coffee (see below), but definitely of that ilk. It's a very subtle 1930s color that becomes a bit more pinkish in midsummer. A healthy and vigorous miniature rose.



Space Walk

Spiced Coffee

This hybrid tea is a true contradiction. It's one of my strongest growing brown roses, but ironically is also one of the most vegetatively disease-prone. Nevertheless, it's an eye-catching rose. Spiced Coffee continuously produces quantities of very large, cupshaped beige blooms with a hint of gold at the heart and "bruise-lavender" shading at the edges of the outer petals, particularly during cooler, overcast weather. A slightly warmer shade of beige than Julia's Rose, more akin to Kaleidoscope in color, but similar to Julia's in bloom size. In the heat, Spiced Coffee becomes a complex but not particularly attractive shade of greyish pink-beige reminiscent of an Ace bandage. The blooms are among the most fragrant of brown roses, with a strong, rather clovelike scent similar to certain Austins. Despite it's predilection to rose ills, this is a vigorous plant, easily reaching four feet or more in its first season. The matte, light green foliage needs regular spraying to keep it looking good.

Tantarra

This hybrid tea is a very unusual shade of cool beige—far lighter than Julia's Rose. At its most typical, the bloom color resembles very pale coffee ice cream. In warmer weather, Tantarra's large blooms—which are definitely at their most beautiful between half- to three-quarters open—have just enough peachy tones to three-quarters open—have just enough peachy tones to prosemble pink sandstone. Flowers are produced sporadically throughout the season rather than in distinct flushes. Although said to have a fragrance, I've not detected much as yet. This is a reasonably strong, although not aggressive grower with lovely dark bluish green foliage that is a perfect foil to the pale blooms.

Tom Brown

Tom Brown—one of the rarest brown roses in the U.S., falls into the same category as such strongly lavender-based roses as Kaleidoscope, Lavender Pinocchio, and Spiced Coffee. In other words, it has a lavender base that is overlaid with tan, especially in the centers of the blooms, and which gradually spreads as the blooms age. Although it's a small plant, Tom Brown is quite the little bloom machine, producing typical floribunda-type clusters of five to seven very double blooms in generous flushes separated by fairly long intervals.

The blossoms start out as deep plum/magenta buds, then open to petals of a rather cold shade of deep lavender with plum/burgundy reverses. They resemble a much more nuanced Fragrant Plum or a less smoky Smoky. As the blooms age, the tan begins in the innermost petals and spreads outward—although never completely eclipsing the plum. The bloom form is

reminiscent of Jocelyn. The foliage is dark, very shiny, and far healthier than that of many other brown roses. In my cool climate I've seen no hint of the reputed "orange" tints mentioned in several descriptions, but they might emerge in a climate with hot summers. Nor have I noticed much of what has been described as an "outstanding fragrance."

The following mail-order nurseries (in alphabetical order) are good, reliable sources for brown roses. I have used all them with considerable satisfaction.

Ashdown Roses P.O. Box 308, Landrum, SC 29356 (864) 468-4900 http://www.ashdownroses.com

Michael's Premier Roses 9759 Elder Creek Road, Sacramento, CA 95829 (866) 352-7673

http://www.michaelsrose.com

Roses Unlimited (Currently, the only source for Brown Study)

363 N. Deer Wood Dr., Laurens, SC 29360 (864) 682-7673

http://www.rosesunlimitedownroot.com



Tantarra

Sequoia Nursery 2519 East Noble, Visalia, CA 93292 (559) 732-0309 http://www.sequoianursery.biz

The Uncommon Rose 3333 SW Brooklane Dr., Corvallis, OR 97333 (541) 753-8871

http://www.uncommongarden.com

Vintage Gardens Antique Roses (Currently, the only source for Tom Brown)

2833 Old Gravenstein Hwy. So., Sebastopol, CA 95472 (707) 829-2035

http://www.vintagegardens.com

Fredrik Liljeblad has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos. He has gardened in climates as diverse as those of Sweden, England, Thailand, and Japan.

Photo Credit: Butterscotch (CL) was photographed by Jim Dery in Fredrik Liljeblad's garden. The color version can be viewed at www.sdfloral.org. The remaining photos are copyrighted by Paul Barden. (http://www.rdrop.com/-paul/main) For a more extensive version of this subject, check out Fredrik

Liljeblad's article at the following URL:http://www.rdrop.com/~paul/brownroses

BUTTERFLY GARDENING FOR KIDS

BY ELEANORE LEWIS

WINGED JEWELS OF THE AIR—flutterbys—no matter what you call butterflies, they entrance everyone. Planting a garden to attract them is one of the best ways to get children of all ages interested in gardening and nature, while introducing them to a bit of science at the same time.

To attract the most butterflies, design a garden that provides a long season of flowers (nectar plants). Perennials such as chives, dianthus, bee balm, butterfly weed, mints, black-eyed Susan, and purple coneflower offer a succession of bloom. Add annuals that flower all season, such as cosmos, petunias, and zinnias, to fill out the border banquet. Select flowers with many small tubular flowers or florets—liatris, goldenrod, and verbena for example—or others, such as French marigold, Shasta daisy, and sunflower.

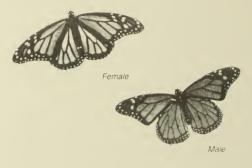
In addition to planting for those beauties on wings. you also need to offer food plants for their larvae. Caterpillars may not be your favorite life form-although your kids might disagree with you-but you will have only a fleeting glimpse of butterflies passing through unless you provide some nourishment for their juvenile (larval) stage. Many of those sources are trees and shrubs, at least a few of which probably already grow in your vard-willows, poplars, cherry trees, and spicebush, for example—but they also include herbs, such as dill, fennel, angelica, and parsley, and weedy plants like common milkweed and thistles. One of the best-known butterflies, the monarch, lays its eggs only on milkweed, and its larvae feed on the plant. The weediness of some host plants makes them less than desirable for a space within your more attractive garden beds, but they serve the same function if you put them away in the corner of the yard. To keep them from becoming invasive, remember to remove their spent blooms before they go to seed.

PLANNING A CHILD'S GARDEN

Combine butterfly plants with your other annuals, perennials, and herbs in existing beds or create a separate garden area especially for the kids. The size of the garden should suit the age of your children; even a space as small as 3 feet by 6 feet will hold enough flowers to attract a few butterflies. If the kids lose interest partway through the season and the garden gets weedy, don't worry; neatness counts for very little to a butterfly. Color, however, is important. Butterflies are attracted to flowers first by their color, and a swath of bright orange butterfly weed or red salvia is easier for

them to see than individual or isolated plants. After color, fragrance follows in significance; butterflies have a keen sense of smell.

Find the sunniest spot in the yard for the garden. Butterflies need the heat of the sun to raise their body temperatures, which helps them fly.



Photography by Dale McClung, www.floridamonarch.com

PLANTS: Ideally, plan a garden your kids can grow from seeds they sow outdoors. Some perennials germinate well in the outdoor garden: chives, butterfly weed, coneflowers, meadow rue (*Thalictrum*), liatris, and yarrow (*Achillea*), to name a few. They may not, however, bloom the first year from seed, so include annuals in the plan. For younger children, ages three to seven or eight, use annuals with large seeds, such as marigolds and zinnias, which are easy for small hands to sow. Sow seeds in color groups, rather than sprinkling them through the bed.

ACCESSORIES: Incorporate a few rocks in the design. Butterflies often rest on rocks, which reflect the heat of the sun. Edge the garden with rounded rocks, put a small pile toward one side, or make a path through the flowers with flat stepping stones. Create a place where water can collect with a concave rock or a pot saucer filled with wet sand (Moisten the sand periodically if it doesn't rain). Butterflies "puddle" in such spots—the perfect opportunity for kids to watch them up close.

POT UP A BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Create a haven for butterflies without a lot of space by planting flowers and herbs in containers.

Choose a window box or other rectangular planter;
 fill it to overflowing with upright and trailing

plants.

- Group three or four large containers together in the corner of a patio or deck and plant one flower variety in each.
- Plant trailing annuals, such as petunia and verbena, in hanging baskets overhead.
- The warmth of reflected sun on a wood deck or flagstone patio is just what butterflies need. Include a saucer of wet sand to provide a welcome puddling spot.

THE GARDEN SCIENCE LAB

Hold a few "field trips" in the backyard during spring and summer.

- See if the kids can spot eggs the butterflies have laid on the undersides of leaves or on flower buds. They may find one to a leaf or a mass of tiny eggs.
- Let them hold caterpillars in their hands; light as air, caterpillars tickle a little as they crawl.
- Search for chrysalises attached to twigs or blades of grass. The pupa is encased in a hard shell, which upon turning transparent is called a chrysalis, which becomes a butterfly, usually over a period of two to three weeks. You can discover chrysalises any time of year; some butterflies, in fact, spend winter in the pupa stage and emerge in spring.
- With a field guide in hand, try to identify the various butterflies that come to the garden to sip nectar.

LIFE STAGES OF A BUTTERFLY

EGG LARVA=CATERPILLAR PUPA=CHRYSALIS ADULT=BUTTERFLY

A DOZEN WIDESPREAD BUTTERFLIES

admiral painted lady
azures question mark
comma skipper
frittilary sulphur
monarch swallowtail
mourning cloak viceroy

Most of these butterflies include a variety of different species and names, depending on the region of the country you live in. Pick up a regional field guide to get to know those that frequent your area. Look on the web sites of The Butterfly Guide, www.butterflies.com, which lists butterflies by state, and the North American Butterfly Association, www.naba.org for more information.

MORE PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLIES

Caterpillars feed on these plants. Butterflies like these Many lay their eggs on them. Butterflies like these plants for nectar.

borage (in other areas) agastache dill asters fennel butterfly bush coreopsis milkweed goldenrod mints lantana parsley passion vine lavender pearly everlasting mistflower snapdragon tithonia many trees and shrubs pentas

Eleanore Lewis wrote this article for April 2003 "Today's Garden" from the National Garden Bureau, www.ngb.org

THE TREES FOR HEALTH GARDEN 1998 AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT 2003

BY BARBARA HUNTER CAREY

ACORNS TO GREAT OAKS GROW! Inspired by an idea from The Herb Club members this project was born. California Relief was funding tree planting projects in 1998 and our study of plants and trees having significant medicinal, aromatherapy and other curative properties qualified for this funding.

Balboa Park Horticulture Department was enthusiastic to have the trees planted in an area west of Balboa Drive and north of Quince Street. The olive and blue gum eucalyptus already there were mature, and the other trees on our study list could be planted in the area. Thus a year-long study of these trees with guest speakers explaining various properties of these trees began at Balboa Park, hosted by The Herb Club. A brochure was created with location, picture, and description of each study tree.

Now the Enhancement Project for the Trees for Health Garden is in progress. Eagle Scout Spencer Oliphant and his troop designed and created a walking path through the tree garden. On Arbor Day, we planted four replacement trees, placed sixteen identification redwood posts, and members of The Herb Club reviewed the project. We look to 12 July to complete post and identification inlay plaques. Brochure revisions and distribution should be complete by December 2003. Our thanks to the many participants and sponsors.

IMPATIENS

BY ROBERT HORWITZ



IF YOU WANT TO get your children interested in flower gardening, try the following method propagating impatiens. Go for a walk in an area where there are lots of impatiens in bloom. I have found lots of them in Old Town State Park. Look for plants that have produced seed pods at the end of a four inch stem. These pods are pear shaped, about an inch long, and are green in color. They have ribs running

along the surface of the pod. Pick the pods carefully because these ribs are like little springs that fling the pod open to throw the seeds in all directions when the pod is fully ripe.

Gather a dozen or more pods and bring them home for planting. A shallow container about two inches deep, a foot wide, and two feet long will make a good base for a planting bed. A plastic nursery flat is ideal. Fill the flat with fine potting soil and tamp down lightly. Moisten the soil and then lay the pods on top of the soil about two inches apart. Place the flats in a partially sunny location and let nature take its course.

In a few days the pods will have burst and scattered their seeds over the soil. Keep the soil damp. In a few more days you will begin to see small green seedlings appear. Let them grow until several real leaves have grown from a stem and the plant is well rooted. Now you can carefully remove them and plant them in small containers filled with soil similar to the seeding soil. Keep the soil damp, not soaking. When first flower buds appear you can lightly fertilize. After a while the impatiens can be planted in larger pots, in the ground, or in hanging baskets.

There are few pests that like impatiens. Snails and slugs, inch worms, and occasionally aphids will try to make a meal of them. The plants do well in a warm partially sunny location. Keep the old blossoms pruned to spur growth of new ones. An occasional trip into the house for decorative purposes is fine. Limit the visit to a week. □

Illustrations by thirteen-year-old Charlotte Drury.

MORNING GLORY

BY ROBERT HORWITZ



FIRST OF ALL, did you know that the sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) is a member of the morning glory family (Convolvulaceae)?

Morning glory is a perennial vine that one sees in profusion during the summer twining itself around telephone poles, guy wires, and fences. Most of the ones we see are blue and grow in profusion. It gets its common name from the fact that most of the flowers bloom in the early morning sunlight and will last most of the day before fading.

Morning glory is happiest growing in warm districts fairly near the coast. It likes a fertile soil and will need watering frequently only when becoming established. After it becomes established, you can cut down on the watering significantly. Occasional fertilizing when getting established is good, but cut way back after it reaches its flowering stage to encourage more blossoms.

If you are interested in the sweet potato, plant it as a cutting in loose fertile soil. The tubers (or potatoes) grow under the soil. They require more watering than does the kind of morning glory you grow for flowers, but the sweet potato will flower as well with pale purple flowers.

Use the morning glory as a plant for hiding unsightly things that impinge on the garden, such as dilapidated fences, the aforementioned telephone poles, under eaves of the roof, along trellis, and even sometimes as a ground cover.

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

Growing Vegetables on the Coast

FENNEL AND DILL BY ARTHUR DAWSON

FENNEL IS BEST KNOWN in this country as an herb whose seed or foliage can add an anise-like flavor to salads and other dishes. The seeds or seedlings that you buy at the nursery mature into plants with multiple thin stems and are intended for these uses. Florence fennel, or finocchio, develops a bulb-like arrangement at the base of the plant that is excellent sliced raw in a salad or cooked, either braised or roasted, as a main course vegetable. You need to be careful when buying the seed. It only remains viable for about half a year, and I have bought the "herb" type mislabeled as Florence fennel from a local nursery. Look for a named bulbing variety like 'Zefa Fino' [both are Foeniculum genus].

Fennel takes three months or more to mature from seed, but it is easily grown throughout the year in our climate. It is best treated as a cool season vegetable, making the first planting in mid-July and then, depending on how much you like it, starting more seeds every four to six weeks until February. The seeds can be planted straight in the ground and some articles advise against transplanting. I find that they transplant very well and begin them in a three-inch pot where eight to a dozen plants can be crowded together for the first month of their existence. This conserves space in the beds and gives better control of the final position of the plants. They need regular water and fertilizing to encourage rapid growth. Any check to their development will result in fibrous, poor-quality bulbs.



Florence fennel

They are almost free of pests but do attract the colorful larvae of the swallowtail. The minor damage

that the caterpillars do the foliage is a small price to pay for the pleasure of seeing the beautiful adult butterflies in the garden. With their feathery foliage, the fennel plants are very attractive and can be grown in the ornamental beds, especially in the spring when space is at a premium in the vegetable garden.

The bulbs will reach the size of your fist or larger and you will find them that size in the supermarket. Their quality is better if you harvest them at half that size. If the mature bulbs are cut just above the ground, new bulbs will grow, but I find that I can organize my beds better if I keep starting new plants.



Anethum graveolens 'Fernleaf' (dill) an "All-America Selection" 1992

Dill, like fennel, is an umbellifer and the foliage of the two plants is similar. At sometime in the remote past, we must have planted it from seed but now it is an established, but welcome, weed in our vegetable beds. We make no effort to let the seed heads mature, but they must succeed in doing so because every autumn we see hundreds of new plants. It takes some effort to grow it in the summer, when it is most needed to accompany cucumbers and tomatoes, but we simply allow a few plants to survive in the cool weather.

The dried leaf that you buy in the spice section of the supermarket has almost no taste and the seed, though pleasant in some dishes, cannot replicate the flavor of freshly gathered dill. It is excellent in a salad and, used sparingly, with fish. Though the taste of dill is fairly subtle, it can overwhelm fish if it is added too liberally.

Arthur Dawson is a retired physician with thirty years of growing experience.

Reprinted, with permission, from the January 2002 'The Spindrifter', the newsletter of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla.

IN PRAISE OF THE WINTER GARDEN AND OF SWEDES

BY ARTHUR DAWSON

MOST HOME GARDENERS DO their planting in the spring and grow mostly the warm season vegetables. It is not generally appreciated that in our climate we can be harvesting fresh vegetables throughout the year, and that cool season crops offer even more variety than those traditionally grown in the summer. However, it takes some planning to avoid a period during the coldest months when there is nothing ready to pick.

During July and August space will be opening up in your beds as you take out the spent cucumbers, corn, and beans. If you want to grow cole crops from seed, you can start your first planting in the last week of July. If you plan to buy flats from the nursery (not something I recommend) then you can wait for three or four weeks.

Root crops should be started in the latter half of August. If you plant peas in August, you will get a crop in December; but if you wait a couple of weeks, they will not be ready to pick until February. Swiss chard, bunch onions, leeks, spinach, and fennel can all be started in late August and should all be producing by late November. Those crops that must be planted directly in the ground (carrots, beets, turnips) will need frequent watering, even twice daily during the hot days of August and September, until they are established. During December and January, growth of most vegetables slows down but those that are well started will continue to mature. You can start seeds in January, but they will do much better if they are under lights indoors or on a warming pad.

Most of the winter vegetables can be left in the ground for awhile until you are ready to harvest them, and they can be stored for a few days without much loss of quality. However, they are much better if you can use them immediately. Therefore, you will want to make repeated plantings through the fall and winter. It is hard to give directions how long to wait between plantings, but the interval can be quite short, say two to three weeks, because each planting will take longer to mature owing to the decreasing time of daylight and the cooling temperatures.

As an example of how to manage your winter garden, I will devote the rest of my space to a much under-appreciated vegetable, the humble swede (or rutabaga). In Canada, when I was a child we called it a turnip, and I had never met the insipid white variety

until I went to England. When we first grew them here, we planted the ubiquitous American 'Purple Top,' which lacks the characteristic flavor. I now plant 'Laurentian' (available from Stokes). There are heirloom varieties like 'Pike', which are said to have the old "down East" flavor. I haven't tried them but expect that they are similar to 'Laurentian'.

I make the first planting around August 20 and plant again at the end of September and in late October. You can plant them in late January, but without some exposure to cold weather they will not develop much taste. With three plantings you will get a continuous harvest from around Thanksgiving until the end of February. A well-grown swede can reach five pounds, and they do not appreciate crowding. I plant two four-foot rows and thin them to four or five plants per row. They need a couple of feedings to produce all that biomass.



swede or rutabaga

You can begin pulling them when they are about four inches in diameter. When the "necks" begin to elongate, it is time to get them out of the ground before they turn woody. In rural Canada, they were stored in the root cellar through most of the winter. In your refrigerator, they will hold their quality for at least a few weeks.

Mashed turnips are a traditional Christmas favorite in Canada, but they taste even better roasted. They can add body to a vegetable soup and do great things for a beef stew.

Small white turnips like "Oasis" (Thompson and Morgan) are much inferior to swedes in my opinion, but they grow quickly, even in January, and make a pleasant addition to a dish of mixed roasted root vegetables. Try a combination of swede, white turnips, carrots, and beets.

Reprinted, with permission, from September 2001 'The Spindrifter', the newsletter of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla.



Now Is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK that plants are not crowded.

TO KEEP violets well groomed.

TO PLACE pans of wet pebbles among plants to increase humidity.

TO USE a fan to circulate the air to prevent mildew. TO USE cool light tubes if violets are under lights. If using natural lighting, place plants farther away from source.

BEGONIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPOT plants if needed — step up to next size container.

TO MAKE cuttings when trimming or pruning.

TO GROOM and inspect plants throughout growing season.

TO CHECK for mildew — spray at once for control.

TO CHECK for snails, slugs, and fungus.

TO POT rooted cuttings and leaves.

TO CONTINUE feeding.

TO REMOVE old flowers from tuberous type by snapping off the blossoms, not the stems.

TO FEED tuberous plants when flower buds appear. Feed one tablespoon High-Bloom and one tablespoon of fish emulsion to one gallon of water.

BONSAI San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER, water, water — but not overwater. During the hot months it is best to water early in the day. Some bonsai may need two or three waterings on

hot, dry days.

TO TURN some trees for even sun exposure.

TO PROTECT some plants by moving into a shaded area out of direct sun.

TO CHECK for insects and pests — spray with a diluted spray. (Be careful with elm trees, which usually do not need spraying.)

TO MIST or spray foliage of certain bonsai, those which are humidity-loving, in the evening or early morning.

TO WAIT until September or October to transplant bonsai.

TO REMOVE excess blossoms from trees to save their strength for next year. Defoliate some of the deciduous varieties in July — not later.

BROMELIADS Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PROTECT plants from burning during the hot weather by placing them under lath, shadecloth, clear fiberglass, or trees.

TO INCREASE the frequency of water according to the temperature, but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CONTINUE to fertilize once a month during summer — using water soluble, high acid fertilizer. Use one-half of strength recommended on label.

TO REMEMBER to water plants one day before fertilizing.

TO CUT off shoots (pups) to make new plants while weather is warm. Remove when they are ½ or ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting off spent blooms and dead leaves.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants during hot weather. If they dry out too much they can shrivel and burn in the sun. Protect delicate specimens from the sun with screen.

TO WATER plants carefully. Some like to dry between waterings, others can take it wetter. Use less on the plants that are dormant.

TO FERTILIZE growing plants but do not overfeed. A good rule of thumb is ½ strength every other watering.

TO WATCH plants for pests — especially snails. Treat immediately but be careful with insecticides.

TO CHECK for plants that need repotting and do so.

TO ENJOY your collection — take a little time to look at your plants.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ENCOURAGE helpful bugs such as lacewings and ladybugs by not watering. Spider mites are a problem during the hot weather; the lady beetle (Stethorus picipes) will take care of them if you are not spraying.

TO RESIST the urge to over water during our hottest weather. Most of the natives survive in the wild by going into summer dormancy where the roots take up no or very little water. Water molds become a problem when these natives are over watered. FYI: People in England raise more of our *Ceanothus* and other natives in their yards than we do. They get lots of rain and water all summer! The reason they have no problems with this is that they have cooler soil with no water molds to kill the plants.

TO ENJOY the blooms of Matilija poppy (Romneya coulteri). If drainage is good, extend the water on these. They will bloom until October if given enough water.

TO LET your local CNPS know which natives you would like to see offered in the fall, and prepare your soil for those you intend to buy.

CAMELLIAS Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE to feed cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon-sized potted plant or up to 2 cups per large plant in ground every 4-6 weeks through mid-August.

TO WATCH for loopers, mites, and aphids. Hose off aphids, use malathion for loopers and a miticide for mites. Scales may sometimes be seen but are easily rubbed off. Orthene is an alternative for all the above. TO MAINTAIN mulch around plants to keep roots cool and moist during hot, dry days.

TO CONTINUE regular watering. Inconsistent watering during this period is a primary cause of bud drop during blooming season.

TO START to disbud plants if fewer but larger blooms are desired. The degree of disbudding is a personal decision. Consider leaving only one bud per cluster. For show quality blooms as few as one bud per branch may be left.

DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old blossoms cut back to first of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.

TO DISBUD to encourage better blooms.

TO TIE canes to prevent plants breaking — use a loop for each cane.

TO CONTINUE regular watering program.

TO SPRAY for insects and mildew; control slugs and snails.

TO FEED with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.

TO CUT blossoms in late afternoon or early morning and place immediately in water.

EPIPHYLLUMS San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH moisture — spray or mist is beneficial during hot dry weather. Spray during evening hours or early morning.

TO REPOT plants that are rootbound.

TO TAKE new cuttings.

TO KEEP plants out of full summer sun; they need filtered sunlight and free air movement.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and unwanted "apples" to conserve the plant's vitality.

TO PLANT new cuttings during the warm weather allowing new growth to become established during the growing season.

TO WATER hybrids during the hot summer months, spray occasionally or mist. Do not allow soil to dry out completely.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention using products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO FERTILIZE for new growth. Use 10-10-15 strength at this time.

FERNS San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale; keep snails, pill bugs, and slugs under control.

TO FERTILIZE plants regularly with a high nitrogen fertilizer. They are in their growing period.

TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping the surrounding areas damp.

TO TRIM dead fronds.

TO PLANT fern spores.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MONITOR soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry. Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below plant roots (3-4 feet deep).

TO SUPPORT limbs that have a heavy fruit load to prevent breakage.

TO BEGIN harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.

TO REMOVE fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.

TO PRUNE out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince, and loquat. Make cuts at least 12 inches below (if possible) infected tissue and disinfect pruning shears between cuts.

TO KEEP ants off trees and periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale, and other insects.

TO INSPECT new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.

TO PRUNE out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.

FUCHSIAS

San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY to control insects. Orthene will control most pests: aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars, leaf miners, thrips, and whitefly. Use manufacturers' instructions.

TO SNIP off runners for shape and new growth.

TO PRUNE lightly to encourage more fall blooms.

TO KEEP foliage misted. Spray only in the shade or early evening.

TO AVOID overwatering; keep damp, not wet.

TO FERTILIZE regularly with high phosphorus for buds and bloom.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and seed pods to encourage more and larger blooms.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE gourmet meals with fresh basil and tomatoes.

TO DRY bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, tarragon, lemon grass, rosemary, lemon balm, gotu kola, stevia, lavender, and raspberry leaf. Hang herbs in a dry, ventilated area that is protected from direct sun.

TO PRUNE back plants that are taking over pathways or smothering other plants.

TO WATER wisely. Comfrey is a great water gauge. When its leaves droop, it is time to give it and other water loving plants, like the mints, a good deep watering. Be careful not to over water your lavender, thyme, aloe, sage, rosemary, fremontodendron, and other damp-sensitive herbs.

TO MAKE herbal sun tea and to add a sprig of fresh mint when serving.

TO FREEZE borage flowers in ice cubes (pinch off sepals) for elegant cool drinks.

TO ENJOY the long days of summer in your herb garden.

IRIS Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPADE and work humus into the soil to revitalize before planting rhizomes.

TO FEED plants left in the ground with a high nitrogen fertilizer — this one time only.

TO DIVIDE and replant tall bearded iris, taking only the new rhizomes attached to the outer edges of the mother clump. Dust ends of cut rhizomes with soil sulfur.

TO KEEP iris beds clean and free of old fans and weeds.

TO WATCH for aphids; use a light insecticide or a systemic.

TO CUT off spuria iris foliage, but do not dig until September.

ORCHIDS Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP an eye out for infestations of scale and spider mite.

TO USE the proper pesticide and keep in mind that at this time of year with low humidity and warm weather, there are continuous hatches of insects.

TO CHECK all potting mixes for good drainage. We do not want rotting potting mixes.

TO MIST and spray on hot, dry days.

TO CHECK new seedlings and community pots. Do not let them dry out or get sunburned. Dry air caused by winds from the interior will desiccate small plants.

TO PLANT any keikis (offshoots) from *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Vanda*, *Ascocenda*, etc., when roots are about two inches long.

TO CHECK the root tips of growing *Phalaenopsis* and other vandaceous plants (air roots). If the tip is green and elongated, the water and humidity are about right. If the tips are white, that indicates more water is needed or more humidity is required. This often applies to other genera also.

TO HAVE most monopodial (a growth habit in which new leaves develop from the same meristem or growing point) orchids dry by nightfall, so water will not sit in the leaf axil.

PELARGONIUMS Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become relatively dry. Do this before the heat of the day. Each watering should moisten the entire soil ball. Excess water should drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding a soluble, balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use at less than the recommended strength as often as needed to keep plants from developing nutritional deficiencies. Water and feed before the heat of the day. Do not feed if plants have become too dry.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention, using products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO GROOM plants, removing discolored leaves and faded flowers. The old bloom stalks on regals, scenteds, and similar types should be cut away with a sharp blade.

TO TAKE cuttings from zonals and ivies, if desired. Each cutting should have a healthy growing tip. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium.

TO PROTECT cuttings and tender plants from the sun if temperatures are high. Move to a sheltered spot or create overhead shade. Keep summer-dormant plants dry and away from excessive heat.

TO CONTINUE to rotate pots on a regular basis in order to keep plants well shaped.

ROSES Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FLOOD each basin at least twice, filling each basin with water prior to feeding. This will help reduce the salt build-up in the growing area. Deep watering is essential and lack of rain contributes to

salt build up. If you are using a drip system, supplement it with deep watering on a monthly basis.

TO WASH off foliage in early morning with strong spray of water to control mites and keep leaves clean. TO MAINTAIN beds with organic mulch to keep soil cool and friable. Some mulching materials deplete the nitrogen supply in the soil and you may wish to compensate by adding some form of nitrogen to maintain healthy green foliage. Many new products are available to assist in maintaining your roses, some good and some not so good.

TO PRACTICE "finger pruning" by removing small spurs and immature greenery that will not contribute to the growth of the plant but WILL ENCOURAGE unwanted insects and disease. Above all—protect all new basal growth.

TO PRUNE lightly in early August to encourage new growth that will encourage blooms into late November.

TO APPLY gypsum (calcium sulfate), an inorganic soil amendment. It does not change the pH, but added to alkaline soil it reacts with the insoluble sodium compounds to form sodium sulfate, which is soluble and can be leached out by HEAVY penetration. You MUST WATER, WATER. Sprinkle gypsum over entire bed and lightly rake in before flooding.

TO FOLLOW UP with a cup of alfalfa meal or pellets, a great root growth stimulant (available at most feed stores). Continue with your regular feeding program. Roses are heavy feeders and enjoy a change of diet. Add a handful of epsom salts to each bush at this time to enhance the green foliage. Above all, keep unnecessary vegetation from the rose by cultivation of the bed and/or mulch.

TO CHECK OUT the new varieties available and evaluate them as possible replacements or additions to your garden. Most rose ratings are based upon a nation-wide (or world-wide) study with completely diverse growing conditions and our climate often will not produce these results. If you do remove a plant, check it over to note the possibility of root gall, a white porous growth frequently appearing near the bud union, which has been caused by a careless shovel or cultivator. It is a good time to dig a large hole, replace the growing medium, and be ready for a replacement.

TO PRESERVE old favorite varieties that may no longer be available. Often roses will start growing on their own roots as the bud union sinks below normal ground level. Some varieties that I now have growing with great vigor are my Papa Meilland, and Peter Frankenfeld. Research local gardens for varieties that will do well in your area.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans, summer squash) in July for fall harvest.

TO PLANT seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.

TO COVER seed with floating row cover to protect young plants from insect pests.

TO WITHHOLD water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.

TO CONTROL corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or *Bt* when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: peppers (July), African daisies (*Arctotis*), bachelor's buttons, calliopsis, celosia, cosmos, *Helianthus annus*, kale (ornamental), African and French marigolds, nicotiana, painted tongue (*Salpiglossis*), petunias, *Scabiosa atropurpurea*, scarlet sage, and Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia*).

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans (snap and pole, lima in July), broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, corn (July), cucumbers (July), lettuce (head), peas, potatoes (August), summer squash — sweet alyssum, centaureas, dianthus, mignonette, annual phlox, portulaca, and Virginia stock (*Malcomia*).

GENERAL NOTES

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ENJOY the fruits of this spring's labor and the bounty of summer crops and flowers.

TO SPEND time in the garden with friends and family. As the summer's heat peaks, evenings become even more enjoyable outside.

TO VISIT other gardens, public and private, and begin dreaming of this fall's garden project and make-over ideas. I have always enjoyed the planning as much as the planting.

TO GIVE special thought to your special places—whether in your home, or elsewhere—the love of gardens and nature is infectious. Share it!

TO TAKE care of yourselves and feel free to call with questions, ideas, updates, or just to visit.

Sincerely, John Allen ~ Pascua Farms and Nursery ~ 619-579-9477 or 504-2017

SUMMER HEAT LOVERS

BY MARY G. McBRIDE

AS I WRITE THIS it is the height of spring. The garden is full of shrubs and perennials in full bloom. The bulbs are just finishing, and the garden is lush with fresh growth.

By the time you read this, it will be mid-summer in Southern California. The sun is hot and glaring, and everything in the garden looks tired, brown and flat. It doesn't have to be this way. There is a huge selection of shrubs and perennials that love summer heat.

Agapanthus, yes, I know these are strip-mall plants, but there have been improvements! There are new cultivars like 'Mood Indigo' (purple), 'Storm Cloud' (dark blue), and 'Stevie's Wonder' (bright blue) as well as dwarf forms with variegated foliage.

Daylilies thrive in mid-summer heat and bloom six to eight months in Southern California. They come in every size, from 6" to 5' tall in bloom—every color and combination except true blue.

Escallonia is a summer blooming shrub 6-8' with white, pink or rose-red flowers. The dwarf form 'Newport Red' is 3' by 3' with red stems and rose-red flowers.

The list of perennials is huge, and often overlooked because these plants are barely visible in their pots in the spring and often missed. Rudbeckias are daisy-type flowers usually in vivid hot colors. 'Irish Eyes' is golden-yellow with a green eye. 'Herbstonne' is 4' tall with bright yellow flowers and makes a showy clump quickly. Asters are a large group from 6" novi-belgii hybrids to A. 'Nana Hearn' at 6'. A. frikartii has soft blue flowers and blooms May-June until frost or clippers. Helianthus (perennial sunflowers) are drought tolerant and tough as are asters. H. 'Lemon Queen' is a very nice 3-4' spreading clump, and a great cut flower.

There are even good bloomers for the shade. Hebes are shrubs from New Zealand with glossy dark foliage with small spikes of flowers ranging from white to pink and purple. Hebe 'Amy' is popular for its dark red-purple foliage and grows to about 4'. H. 'Great Orme' has bicolor pink and white flowers. There are also many dwarf forms now available.

We usually think of *Lobelia* as a low ground cover; look for *Lobelia* \times gerardii or any of the new cultivars like L. 'Compliment' (red) L. 'Pink Elephant' or L. 'Grape KneeHi'. These plants grow vertical spikes to 3' tall in part shade from small flat rosettes, and prefer regular water.

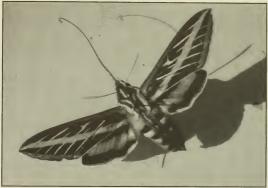
These plants are just a sampling of the summer bloomers available for Southern California, and doesn't even cover bulbs! So, grab a hat and get out and discover a whole new season in your garden.□

SPHINX MOTH MAGIC®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

IT WAS SO ROMANTIC. The first time we met was in my garden at twilight. The setting sun gave a golden glow to the landscape, as the gentle spring breeze ruffled the petunia petals. I felt a premonition that something exciting was about to occur. Kismet. And then I saw him. It was love at first sight. Hyles lineata was him ame (we can call him Hy for short), and I found him among the honeysuckle, probing it with his long tongue-like proboscis, sucking up every little bit of nectar.

Before you get the wrong idea (after all, this *is* California), you must know that I am eulogizing an individual commonly known as the white-lined sphinx moth.



White-lined Sphinx Moth Adult

I can see you now. You are turning up your nose as you contemplate what the word "moth" means to you. You may be thinking of your best wool sweaters hanging defenseless in the closet, prey to any hungry moth caterpillar who happened to be oviposited there by his mom. Or perhaps you are thinking of the dreaded godzilla-sized tomato-munching hornworm, wayward child of the tobacco hornworm moth. Manduca sexta. Relax; Hy will not eat your clothes or your tomatoes. According to an article in the News of the Lepidopterists' Society, Volume 41, Number 2, Hy has never been observed eating domestic crops or grasses. Instead, as a larva or caterpillar (the adolescent stage) he ingests plants in the evening primrose and four-o'clock families, among others. As an adult, Hy sticks strictly to nectar found in many flowers. Thus by planting the right greenery, you might have a chance encounter with him yourself.

But why would you want to encounter him (or her, as the case may be) you might ask. Following are just a few reasons.

WHY I LOVE HY

Ecologically speaking, Hy is a great pollinator. As an adult he visits flowers to sip nectar and in doing so transfers pollen from one plant to another. Without pollen transfer and the resultant reproduction there would be a lack of plants and further down the line a lack of us. People need plants. However, in their native

lands plants do not need people.

Think about it.

Another reason I regard Hy highly is more personal. I have to admit it: As an adult moth, Hy is cute and even cuddly. His cuteness stems from his fuzzy body, his handsome, white-striped darkish forewings and pink-and-black hind wings. As he hovers, probing into a blossom, he looks for all the world like a tiny hummingbird (and we all know how enchanting they are). In fact, another common name for Hy is "hummingbird moth."

Hy is a prime candidate for cuddling. The only problem is that he doesn't hold still; he flits from flower to flower before I can pet him. However, thanks to a good friend I was recently able to have in my hand an associate of Hy. It seems that the wings of Hy's associate never fully developed and so the poor thing could not fly. He staggered to the edge of the table (Hy's associate, that is, not my friend) and I cupped my hand to hold him back. He fell into my hand and stayed there for a bit, trembling, all soft and furry. I felt like I was nine years old again (not a bad age, all in all).

Now for the bad news: In the larval stage Hy resembles a tiny 2 to 3½-inch long segmented sausage of green, sometimes black, with a series of yellowish stripes. He has a small, bald, reddish head and, near his posterior, a bodaciously wicked-looking horn. The horn cannot prick you; it is only there to scare pint-sized predators. Another gimmick the larval Hy has up his sleeve is this: At the sign of any disturbance to his serenity, his front portion will rear up, sphinx-like, to scare the wits out of whoever might be bothering him. On a springtime trip to Death Valley recently, a friend and I spied a baker's dozen of Hy's cousins, ambling

along the gravelly path. As I pointed to one I exclaimed, "Isn't that a great caterpillar?"

She said, "That's the most grotesque thing I ever saw."

You just can't account for tastes, can you?



Larval Stage of White-lined Sphinx Moth on False Mustard

THINGS TO DO TO SPY HY

- (1) Get out there and garden. You don't have to bother about a flashlight; although most moths fly by night, Hy and some of his cousins prefer daylight and dusk. As you are pulling that recalcitrant weed, stop and observe the glorious pint-sized animals that amble, hop, slink, swirl, and soar around you. Hy may be among them.
- (2) Grow host plants for Hy's larval stage. A favorite is false mustard (*Camissonia californica*), a delicate-looking California native mustard with pretty yellow flowers that is not a mustard at all, but a member of the evening primrose family (Onagraceae). Incidentally, the evening primrose family is not to be confused with another group, the primrose family (Primulaceae). (Gets complicated, doesn't it?) Anyway, just remember that the evening primrose family contains false mustard, a primo host plant for Hy; he may use other members of this family, too. Other possible host plants occur in the four-o'clock family (Nyctaginaceae). Examples are sand verbenas (*Abronia* spp.) and

wishbone plant (*Mirabilis* spp.); these should be included in the native garden anyway because the flowers, though small, usually come in wonderfully bright colors. Seed can be purchased through the Theodore Payne Foundation (818-768-1802).

- (3) Grow nectar plants for Hy's adult stage. These include: honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.); valerian or stinky sock plant (*Centranthus* spp.); petunia (*Petunia* spp.); lantana (*Lantana* spp.); and flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana* spp.). Since flowers of the above plants come in a range of colors, try to select those whose blooms are pale in hue and have a strong, sweet scent since most moths seem to prefer those.
- (4) Provide a pleasant, pesticide-free environment with a chair (for you, not the moths) to sit on after all the weeds have been pulled. Only joking! You will NEVER get all the weeds; and that is okay because some of them are actually desirable since they attract interesting creatures on their own. Don't be too much of a neatnik.
- (5) If you are feeling creative, you could try "sugaring" to attract Hy and his relatives. As reported in the book *Discovering Moths* by John Himmelman, basic ingredients are brown sugar and beer (stale is best). Try not to drink the bait. Optional items include maple syrup, honey, liqueurs, flat orange soda, vanilla, and/or mushy/rotten fruit such as bananas, pears, and watermelon. Stir, making sure mix is not too thin. Paint on a tree trunk and see what happens. Note: If beer is not stale you may let mixture stand for a few days; but make sure NOT to cover it tightly or accumulating gases may cause an explosion.

AND YOU DON'T WANT HY TO DIE

Pesticides should not be used if you want a happy, healthy garden full of Hys and butterflies. Instead, try to attract beneficial insects to control garden pests. Beneficial bug adults will happily slurp the nectar in the blossoms of many herbs like rosemary, thyme, and yarrow.

In addition to avoiding pesticides, you also might avoid tilling the soil where Hy might be pupating. To explain: After the caterpillar Hy reaches about 3½", he will crawl underground and form a brownish, cigarshaped, naked pupa about an inch or more in length. After a period he will emerge, head-first, gulping air to expand his body and split the pupal case. He then struggles to the surface and climbs a convenient stem or branch, pumping fluid from his body into the wing veins. In an hour or more Hy will be ready to fly.

LOOKING AT HY (AND RELATIVES) WITH A

TOLERANT EYE

As stated earlier, Hy will not eat your tomatoes. However, the tobacco hornworm larva, a large green squishy-looking member of the Sphinx moth clan, will.



Abronia latifolia, yellow sand verbena

What to do? It's not good to chemicalize your yard. Instead, you might contact the Tomato Hornworm Rescue Foundation at

http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/load/butterfly/msg08203906704.html. The members of the foundation have many interesting ideas about how to deal with hornworms: One suggested transferring (by hand) those hornworm scamps from your regular tomato plant to a "sacrificial" one. If you shudder at having to touch the things, perhaps rubber gloves (or a glass of wine) might help.

As I mentioned before, Hy himself is not at his adorable best in the larval stage. But remember this: Every creature has to eat, and has a place in the grand scheme of things. What might look a little questionable at first may turn out to be just wonderful.

Like Hy, for instance.□

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

Photographs by Bill Howell.

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate \$65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions

	1909-1939
	□ \$21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing) □ \$18.00 members of SDFA (book, tax, mailing) (\$18 or \$15 if picked up, tax included)
	Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions
	□ \$17.50 (book, tax, mailing) (\$14.50 if picked up, tax included)
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SAN DIEGO IS A CITY OF WATER CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

BY LUIS GENEROSO

CONSERVING WATER IS MORE than just a passing thought for San Diegans, it is a way of life. Although water surrounds its beaches and bays, San Diego has a semi-arid climate and averages only nine inches of rain annually. Since rainfall is not enough to accommodate the city's needs, conserving water is vital. For more than a decade San Diegans have been volunteering to save this precious resource.

"The willingness of San Diegans to conserve water has been key to meeting our goals," says Chris Robbins, Supervising Management Analyst for the City of San Diego's Water Conservation Program. "Entrusting the community voluntarily to conserve water has worked during drought seasons and recent experience has shown that it also works during non-drought years as well." The Water Conservation Program supports everybody conserving water voluntarily by providing information about water-wise habits and encouraging the installation of low water-use devices. The Program also offers many services that are designed to function sucessfully solely on the voluntary efforts of local residents and businesses. For instance, more than 3,420 vouchers redeemed by people voluntarily participating in programs like the High-Efficiency Clothes Washer (HEW) Voucher Program has resulted in more than 17 million gallons of water saved each year. Another voluntary resource, the online Landscape Watering Calculator, has attracted more than 31,000 residents. More than 8,100 of those residents have created watering schedules saving an estimated 480,000 gallons of water per day.

Volunteering to save water not only comes from individuals, but also from a diverse range of community partners. The Water Conservation program is also working with various local and regional industry groups and professional organizations to help inform the public and provide tips on how to conserve water both at home and at work

"We are always looking for ways we can educate our clients as well as ourselves about water conservation," Rob McGann, Vice President of the San Diego chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association. "We were more than happy to lend a helping hand by providing a link to the City's Landscape Watering Calculator on our industry website as an additional resource for landscape maintenance, and so far it is a hit."

Why not join the thousands of San Diegans who have already volunteered to conserve water? Here are some easy tips for how you can get started:

- Keep a jug or pitcher of water in the refrigerator to fill your glass, instead of letting the water run down the sink when you want a cool drink.
- Collect water used from rinsing produce, and reuse it to water houseplants.
- Defrost frozen food by placing it in the refrigerator overnight or using microwave, instead of putting it under running hot water.
- If you have a fish tank that needs to be cleaned out, use its water as a fertilizer treatment on your houseplants because it is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Use a trigger nozzle when washing the car to prevent the hose from running additional water, or take your car to a carwash that uses recycled water.
- Bathe pets outdoors in a landscaped area so that you maximize water usage by also watering your grassy lawn.
- Set lawn mower blades one notch higher, since longer grass reduces evaporation.
- Prevent overwatering your lawn and garden by creating a free customized watering schedule with the online Landscape Watering Calculator available at www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation.
- Request a free on-site evaluation of your indoor and outdoor home water use, complete with recommendations, by calling the City of San Diego Water Department's residential Water Survey Program at (619) 515-3500 or email water@sandiego.gov.

Limited rain showers haven't stopped San

Diegans from pitching in to make the most of our local water supply. We encourage everybody to join in, and to tell others about conserving water. Because when it comes to saving water, San Diego is a city full of volunteers.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call (619) 515-3500.

□

Luis Generoso is Water Resources Manager, City of San Diego.

CALCULATE YOUR LANDSCAPE'S WATER NEEDS ON-LINE TOOL PROVIDES CUSTOMIZED SCHEDULE BY LUIS GENEROSO

WATER YEAR 2002 WAS not good for San Diego landscapes. On average, San Diego receives less than ten inches of rainfall annually. With only three measly inches falling, the past year will go into the books as the driest ever in San Diego. Couple that with the fact that this is the fourth year in a row with below normal rainfall, and there has never been a drier four-year period in San Diego's weather history.

City of San Diego Water Department studies have shown as much as fifty percent of residential water usage is for landscape irrigation. As such, proper landscape irrigation has become a new focus for water conservation. The Water Conservation Program of the City of San Diego's Water Department is proactively working to monitor and optimize irrigation water use as a way to spark additional, significant water savings. A key component of this effort is the Landscape Watering Calculator. If you have not already visited this on-line resource, the Water Department encourages you to logon to www.sandiego.gov/water, and click on Conservation to create a customized watering schedule.

The City of San Diego's Landscape Watering Calculator is an easy to use tool that estimates the appropriate amount of water needed for lawns and gardens. Already, more than 8,100 San Diegans have calculated personal watering schedules. By answering a few questions about the landscape, location, and watering system, the calculator provides a detailed,

printable watering schedule for each month. Because there is a variation in every landscape, the calculator works by averaging numbers for weather, plants, and soils in San Diego. It is designed to provide a foundation for irrigation as nothing can replace the value of being familiar with the landscape and irrigation systems to help in diagnosing problems.

"The Landscape Watering Calculator is a great tool for professionals and homeowners to manage their irrigation, and has the added benefit of drastically reducing pollution in our beaches and bays by limiting runoff," said Dan Carney, landscape architect for the City's Water Conservation Program. "Customized irrigation schedules reduce irrigation runoff — that is the water that runs off turf and landscaping and flows directly into the gutter. This water gathers fertilizer, grass clippings, animal waste, motor oil and other pollutants and runs into the storm water system and directly into the bay or ocean. Water from the storm drains is not treated prior to its introduction into our recreational water areas."

There are a number of factors involved in creating a healthy, vibrant, and water-efficient landscape. Proper irrigation is only the beginning. By providing the Landscape Watering Calculator, the Water Department is making practicing good water-use behavior easier.

[Anyone within the county of San Diego can use the Landscape Watering Calculator. For those outside the county but within the Southern California region, going to the Southern California Metropolitan Water District website is suggested, <a href="www.mwd.dst.ca.us/"www.mwd.dst.ca



HOUSEPLANT WATERING

BY MORT BRIGADIER, UCCE Master Gardener

A COMMON QUESTION FROM home gardeners is "How often should I water my houseplants?"

There is no simple answer. It depends on the plant species, the soil mix, the size and type of pot, its location, room temperatures, and other conditions. Some plants thrive in very moist soil, but others grow best when soil is allowed to become somewhat dry. You need to know the growth requirements of each plant. This information can be found in garden books or on the Internet by using either the scientific or the common name of the plant.

The main cause of death of indoor plants is overwatering. Roots need both water and oxygen to remain healthy. When surrounded by the water the roots are deprived of oxygen. Without vital oxygen in the root zone, plants will rot, and eventually die.

On the other hand, dry, wilting plants will respond when given water. Should we then allow our plants to wilt before we give them water? Of course not. We need to water our plants before they dry out, but never let them sit in water.

Well then, how do you know when a given plant needs water? Here are six tips on how often to water.

- 1. Check the color of the soil. The potting mix will change from a darker to a lighter color as it dries out.
 2. Feel the soil. Stick your finger into the soil. If your finger is dry, water the plant.
- 3. Tap the pot with a stick if it is a clay pot. If the sound is hollow, water the plant. If the sound is dull, wait to water. When dry, the potting mix will shrink away from the side of a clay pot. Tapping the pot will not work with a plastic pot. To determine if a plastic pot is wet or dry, check the color and feel the soil.
- 4. Lift or weigh the pot. Water is heavy. You can detect a definite loss in weight as the pot dries out. You can use a household scale actually to weigh the pot when it is dry and again when it's wet. A liquid ounce of water weighs about one ounce, and the difference in weight tells us the amount of water that the plant used since the last watering.
- 5. Learn the "water cycle" of each of your plants. Record the number of ounces of water you apply to each pot and the number of days it takes for each pot to dry out. This is how you can discover not only "how often to water," but also how much water to apply! This does not take much time.



SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

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MAKE DELIGHTFUL ICED TEA

BY VIRGINIA MAPLES INNES

YOU CAN MAKE DELIGHTFUL iced tea with a little help from your garden. Iced tea is an optional beverage year round, but is more likely to be offered in the summer in the South and in Southern California, Most people make iced tea using strong brew black tea. In the summer "sun tea" is popular. It is made by adding tea bags to a large glass container of water, it is placed in the sun, and tea is made in a couple of hours. Camellia sinensis, the common tea, is not grown in our local gardens. Stores that sell tea have a wide variety of bulk or boxed tea, but the home garden will generally have something to improve the taste. (If not, it's easy to start some mint or grow a rose geranium in your garden.) Garden mints like apple, peppermint, and spearmint are popular; the rose-scented geranium is a good source of flavor; citrus — all make good syrups that are great additions to tea.

Rose Geranium Syrup

To make a rose geranium (Pelargonium graveolens) syrup use equal amounts of water and sugar. To a cup of water and a cup of sugar, add two or three sprigs of the rose geranium. Bring the mix to a boil and let it simmer for three or four minutes. Let the mix sit at least a couple of hours before you remove all plant material and strain it into a glass jar to be stored in the refrigerator. The syrup will keep a few weeks.

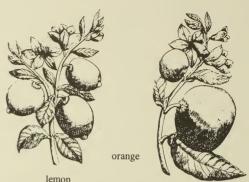




spearmint

Citrus Syrup

To make citrus syrup wash the fruit, remove the zest, and juice. Add one cup of sugar to one cup of juice and zest to your liking. (Four large lemons or oranges will produce about one cup of juice.) For fresh syrup mix the ingredients and let macerate for a day at room temperature. Stir occasionally. Strain and place in a sterilized jar in the refrigerator. For cooked syrup use a



nonmetallic sauce pan and bring a mixture to a boil. After it simmers three or four minutes, let it sit for a couple of hours before straining, bottling, and refrigerating. Sprigs of mint can be added to citrus syrups in the cooking process.

For citrus syrups, you can use all lemons, all oranges, or a combination. A good mix with lemon/orange should be about four oranges to one lemon. The tea can vary in tartness, by use of less sugar. Tastes vary, but most people are happy with from one to about three teaspoons of syrup added to a glass of tea. If you make a pitcher of tea, use about a tablespoon per glass of tea. Pitchers of tea are usually presweetened, but for glasses of ice tea most hosts give the individual the option of adding the sugar.

Virginia Maples Innis is a Master National Council Landscape Design Consultant. She served four years on the California Garden Clubs State Board, two years as a director, and two years as the chairman of the Design Consultants Council

RAW SPROUTS WARNING

In 1998, we were proclaiming that studies had shown that a much greater quantity of the cancer-fighting chemical sulforaphane is to be found in raw broccoli sprouts than in mature heads. Now we must bring to your attention that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has, for the second time in four years, warned that any raw sprouts that one might think of eating are likely to be **contaminated with bacteria**. They asserted that even washed sprouts need to be cooked to kill bacteria.



GARDENS IN PROVENCE

Louisa Jones, Photography by Vincent Motte
Paris, Flammarion, 2002, 192 pages, 194 color photos, 9" x 11%", softcover, \$29.95

With pen and lens through the Rhône valley of France, this sumptuous volume takes the reader to garden scenes whose vintage and scope are truly beyond anything on this side of the waters. A long-time resident of the region, the author explores castles and farms, villages and the wild woods, and garrigue [low open scrubland characterized by many evergreen shrubs, low trees, and bunchgrasses] that define the countryside. Much of this landscape has been captured by artists and writers of the last century, but this book provides a depth of information augmented by breathtaking color photographs that truly transport the reader to another place, in time as well as location.

This is an area that has been cultivated for centuries. The size and scale of plantings are simply vast, with acres of ancient olive trees, fields of lavender, and weathered stone walls combined with elements of classical architecture. Most of the trees, shrubs, and flowers will be familiar to Southern California gardeners, but few of us have seen the kind of dense underplanting that has evolved in these well-seasoned landscapes.

Most specimens have been encouraged to follow their natural form, although sculptured mounds of rosemary, germander, and other aromatics are a common feature. Another frequent design element is found in lines and frames formed by trees, vineyards, and terraces.

The author leads detailed verbal tours through many, many gardens, some of which are private and seldom open to the public. She describes the approach, the atmosphere and landscape design, including the history and aesthetic influence on each particular garden.

A map of Provence, indicating the location of all the gardens mentioned, and addresses of gardens that may be visited, is found at the end of the book. Also provided are lists of plant sources and common plants found in Provence. Most local gardeners will find this book a satisfying

THE INTUITIVE GARDENER

Marilyn Raff

Golden, CO., Fulcrum Publishing, 2002, 178 pages, 67 color photos, 7" x 10" softcover, \$24.95

Here is a gardening guide based on the interplay of imagination and intuition. Leave reasoning and plans behind, pick the plants you like, and put them where you think they'll thrive: if not, you can always move them. That, in a simple nutshell, is the underlying theme of this exuberant author, who began gardening with a "ratty and boring backyard" in 1985. She included a photo of it, as she describes her pilgrimage from docent/helper at the Denver Botanical Garden to a garden designer who never drew up a plan, to horticulture instructor, and now author.

Along the way she drew on her instincts for creating, recreating, and transforming natural elements as she learned the nitty-gritty of plant nature. Sadly for us, much of her specific landscape ideas may not translate to Southern California, but there is still food for inspiration in her discourses on growing roses, grasses, and plants for shady areas. Large rocks as landscape accents, gravel paths, and hydrotufa troughs as planters are some of her favorite garden features, and she revels in foliage colors, seed pods, and the special satisfaction found in weeding and other garden "housekeeping."

The author is devoted to the practicality of trusting your own ideas and preferences in the garden. Her book could be a welcome tonic for those overwhelmed with the overload of information that often passes for gardening expertise.

Marge Howard-Jones

ANNUALS & BIENNIALS

Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix

Buffalo, NY, Firefly Books, 2002, 284 pages, 1,000 color photos, 8%" x 111/2", softcover, \$24.95

A "definitive reference with over 1,000 color photographs" is the stated subtitle of this amazing book. It is focused on plants grown in Great Britain, but it is a treasure trove of information and images for plant lovers in any clime.

Plants are presented by families in "traditional botanical order," beginning with Ranunculaceae and ending with Composite, a system that appeared to this reader as somewhat random compared to the usual alphabetical arrangement. Common and botanical names and descriptions of the various species are accompanied by color photos on the same page. Some views are close up studies, some views show the plants in landscape, and there are always views of the plants in their native habitats all over the world. California gardeners will be interested to see many "annuals and biennials" that are native to our region, and those that

act as perennials in our climate.

As with so many definitive texts, the huge variety of species and their relationships within genus and plant family makes for fascinating browsing. An example: Godetia known in Europe and named after Swiss botanist, C.H. Godet was later named Clarkia after William S. Clark (explorer with Meriwether Lewis). He discovered additional subspecies of Clarkia amoena on their famous trip.

Phillips shares some basic plant photography suggestions regarding exposure times and film development. Also helpful are the bibliography and glossary at the front of the book. For those hopelessly caught up in zonal denial, the glimpse of unusual species that might be cultivated from seed is a special added attraction.

Marge Howard-Jones

THE COLOR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CAPE BULBS John C. Manning, Peter Goldblatt, and Dee Snijman Timber Press, Portland, 2002, 486 pages, 611 color photos, 2 color maps, 2 tables, 8½" x 11", hardcover, \$59.95

This encyclopedia of plants with bulbs or other underground storage (rhizomes, tubers, and corms) limits itself to the Cape Province of South Africa. But for this area it is very complete, for both the number of genera and for the number of species included for each genera.

The authors include Peter Goldblatt, who is Curator at Missouri Botanical Garden and a specialist on the iris family. He has written books on *Moraea, Watsonia, and Gladiolus*. John Manning and Dee Snijman are both research assistants at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town.

As most of us know, the Cape Floral Region is home to far more bulbous plants than any other area. The iris family has by far the most species, 708, followed by the hyacinth family at 213 species, and the amaryllis family with 103 species. The total species of bulbous plants within the region is 1,183. There is a key formula of Cape bulbs in the front of the book. In the back there is a key to species for those genera having more than one species.

For each genus, after listing family, common names, descriptions of rootstock, leaves, inflorescences, flowers, stems, ovary, style, fruit, and seeds, limited growing information is given, e.g. suited to container cultivation, recommended for coastal garden, or will tolerate dry conditions.

This book will delight those interested in botanical distinctions. For example, the difference of similar genera Geissorhiza and Hesperantha, which are often confused with each other. Or the change in 1998 when several South African genera of Iridaceae were included in Moraceae (Galaxia, Hexaglottis and Homeria). Among nomenclature changes are Anomalesia to Gladiolus: A. cunonia to G. cunonius, A. saccata to G. saccatus, A. splendens to G.

splendens. The photos are excellent, showing closeups of blossoms, as well as the plants, and the majority were taken in their natural habitat.

Reviewed by R. Cox

WEEDS IN MY GARDEN: Observations on Some Misunderstood Plants

Charles B. Heiser

Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 260 pages, 29 color photos, 30 line drawings, 51/2" x 8", hardcover, \$22.95

Our rainy spring has undoubtedly increased our appreciation for what grows wild in the fields, and, this author would hope, in our gardens. His affection for self-sown flowers and trees stems from an early stint at UC Davis identifying specimens brought in by local farmers. Now retired as Professor Emeritus of Botany at Indiana University, he presents 140 weeds whose beauty and utility have yet to be fully recognized.

He points out that there is a distinction between native plants and weeds that humans or animals, birds or the wind have brought to "disturbed" sites. Readers will be only slightly surprised to find some familiar cultivated plants among the weeds here described: daylilies, honeysuckle, sunflowers, and daisies all can be considered "plants out of place" when they turn up in the garden on their own.

The author claims that weeds in the garden do not need to be removed to enhance the growth of cultivated plants. The flowers produced by weeds can be an asset to the landscape and their deep roots can contribute to the health of the soil. Heiser notes that many weeds inadvertently or otherwise imported by Europeans were adopted by Native Americans for healing purposes that sometimes differed from those of the settlers.

The main part of the book is an alphabetical listing by plant family, with accompanying botanical drawings taken from the work of the sixteenth century botanist, John Gerard. An explanation and definition of the Latin and common names of each species is followed by a description of the time and place of its appearance, a description of its appearance, and description of its virtues as food, medicine, and other applications. Each species has a virtue, even poison ivy, which is cited for the food it provides to birds and animals, and the brilliant coloring of its foliage.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

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